Frieren
Beyond Journey's End
Chapter 144: Prophetic Dream
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Translation: Misa 'Japanese Ammo' Lettering: Annaliese "Ace" Christman
THE MAGIC SPECIAL FORCES STILL HAVEN'T MADE A MOVE.
THEY MUST BE LOOKING TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS.
IT MAKES THEM LOOK COWARDLY.
THEY POSSESS A WHOLE TEAM OF EXPERTS, YET STILL ACT SO CAUTIOUSLY.
AH, YES.
YOU'VE FOUGHT THE MAGIC SPECIAL FORCES BEFORE.
THAT COWARD-ICE...
...IS EXACTLY WHAT MAKES THE IMPERIAL MAGES TERRIFYING.
WE LOST THREE FIRST-CLASS MAGES IN THE BATTLE.
HMM... FRÄSE, THE CAPTAIN OF THE MAGIC SPECIAL FORCES...
I WISH WE HAD MORE TIME TO OBSERVE.
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL GRANT US AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS MAJESTY?
THEY'LL SEE US WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT.
THAT MAN MAY BE A SHREWD PRAGMATIST...
...BUT HE UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING UP APPEARANCES.
HE'LL PROBABLY BRING A LARGER RETINUE THAN OURS.
HAVE YOU MET HIM BEFORE?
ONCE, IN A PROPHETIC DREAM.
BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TELLING YOU ABOUT IT.
AND WHY IS THAT?
BECAUSE I TOOK A GAMBLE, AND I'M SURE YOU'LL BE MAD AT ME WHETHER IT LEADS TO OUR VICTORY OR DEFEAT.
CAN'T SLEEP?
I CANNOT BELIEVE THIS.
WHAT IS FRÄSE DOING?
HOW COULD SHE ALLOW AN INTRUDER TO SLIP BY HER LIKE THIS?
YOU MUST BE SERIE, OF THE CONTINENTAL MAGIC ASSOCIATION.
WE WILL SEE EACH OTHER AT THE BALL TOMORROW.
SURELY WE HAVE NOTHING TO DISCUSS THAT CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THEN.
WRONG.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT. SO...
...WE NEED TO TALK NOW.
THEN IS IT ACCEPTABLE IF WE WALK AS WE TALK?
I HAVE SOME-THING ON MY MIND.
THAT'S FINE.
SO LONG AS YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO SPOIL OUR DISCUSSION.
I CANNOT GUARANTEE IT WON'T HAPPEN.
EVEN IF I DO NOT CARE...
...FRÄSE WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY.
SHE WON'T INTERFERE.
...I SEE.
YOU KILLED HER.
IN THAT CASE, I SUPPOSE IT WILL DEPEND ON HOW YOU KILLED HER.
NO DOUBT.
SHE LEFT ME NO TIME FOR ANYTHING BESIDES AN AUDIENCE WITH YOUR MAJESTY.
TO FRÄSE...
...EVEN HER OWN DEATH WOULD SERVE AS A TOOL TO BUY TIME.
IT TRULY WAS AN ENJOYABLE BATTLE.
BESIDES, I WOULDN'T MIND IF SHE OVERHEARD US.
NOT IN THIS PLACE, AT LEAST.
HM? "THIS PLACE"? COULD IT BE ...?
I SEE. WE'RE INSIDE A DREAM.
THAT'S HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO FORCE YOUR WAY IN.
THIS MAGIC ITEM ALLOWS ONE TO DIFFENTIATE BETWEEN DREAMS AND REALITY.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
THE COLOR OF THE FLAME CHANGES WHEN YOU ARE INSIDE A DREAM.
AND...
...A BLACK FLAME MEANS THAT THIS...
...IS NOT MY DREAM.
IT'S YOURS.
YES.
YOU ARE MERELY A CHARACTER...
...INSIDE MY DREAM.
IT EVEN FUNCTIONS INSIDE A PROPHETIC DREAM, HUH?
THIS TAKES ME BACK.
ONE OF FLAMME'S SILLY LITTLE TREASURES...
A PROPHETIC DREAM...
MAGIC FROM THE MYTHICAL TIMES.
IT MUST BE A TYPE OF CLAIRVOYANCE.
I DID NOT EXPECT SUCH A THING TO BE REAL.
CLAIRVOYANCE?
THIS IS NOTHING SO FANCIFUL.
THIS MAGIC IS...
NO.
THERE'S NO POINT EXPLAINING IT TO YOU.
GO AHEAD AND THINK OF IT AS CLAIRVOYANCE.
DOES THAT MEAN OUR ENCOUNTER HERE...
...IS ONE THAT WILL ACTUALLY HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE?
THIS IS SIMPLY THE CHOICE I MADE THIS TIME.
THAT'S ALL.
IT'S ONE OF MANY POSSIBILITIES.
THOUGH IT TURNED OUT TO BE A WASTE.
TO THINK THAT A CHARACTER INSIDE A DREAM COULD BECOME AWARE OF IT...
I NEVER KNEW A FLAW LIKE THIS EXISTED.
AND NOW THIS DREAM HAS LOST ITS USE AS A TOOL FOR PREDICTING THE FUTURE.
THIS WAS MY LAST CHANCE.
WHAT A SHAME.
WAIT.
SINCE YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, PRAY TELL...
...WHAT WAS IT YOU WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH ME?
YOU SUGGEST THAT THIS IS FAR FROM THE FIRST TIME YOU HAVE TRIED THIS.
HOW MANY ATTEMPTS HAVE YOU MADE?
WHAT IS TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE?
AND WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE YOU, SERIE, THE GREAT MAGE...
...IS UNFOLDING BEYOND THE REACH OF MY POWER.
TO BE HONEST, I DO NOT BELIEVE YOUR DEATH WOULD BE IDEAL.
FOR THE PROSPERITY OF THE EMPIRE...
NAY...
FOR THE SAKE OF THE EMPIRE'S PEACEFUL FALL...
...I WISH TO PREVENT IT.
LET US DISCUSS MATTERS.
IT SHOULD PROVE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.
SO, IF I BRING BACK INFORMATION FROM YOU HERE...
...IT COULD HELP US FOIL THE ASSAS-SINATION PLOT...
...AND THUS BENEFIT THE EMPIRE IN REALITY, CORRECT?
THAT DOES NOT SOUND BAD, RIGHT?
AND WHY SHOULD I DO THAT? YOU'RE THE ONE...
...WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE PROVIDING INFORMA-TION...
... YOUR MAJ-ESTY.
EXPLAIN YOUR SITUATION TO ME.
SERIE ...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO AID YOU WITHOUT FIRST UNDERSTANDING WHAT-
YOU'RE TRYING TO GAIN INFORMATION FOR YOURSELF.
OH, STOP.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT'S NOT THE REASON.
YOU HAVE A CON-SCIOUS-NESS.
MY DREAM'S CONNECTED TO THE EMPEROR'S.
YOU'RE A REAL SWINDLER.
THE MENTAL DEFENSE THAT IS PROTECTING ME WAS CREATED WITH THE QUINTESSENCE OF OUR IMPERIAL MAGIC.
IT IS THE CULMINATION OF THE EMPIRE'S MILLENNIUM OF MAGICAL RESEARCH.
I MAY BE THE CASTER, YET THE PRINCIPLES OF THIS SPELL...
...ARE OUTSIDE THE REALM OF MY UNDER-STANDING.
THAT DEFENSE IS PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR CURRENT SITUATION.
IF THE "EMPEROR" OF AN IMAGINARY WORLD—A PROPHETIC DREAM...
...WERE TO LEAK INFORMATION WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE...
...IT COULD ENDANGER THE EMPIRE.
I BELIEVE...
...THAT THIS VERSION OF MYSELF EXISTS HERE...
...SO IT CAN CHOOSE WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED.
YOU DIDN'T HESITATE...
...TO SPELL IT ALL OUT.
WELL, I AM AN EMPEROR.
I UNDERSTAND THAT THE EMPIRE WILL FALL SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN.
THAT IS WHY-
VERY WELL, YOUR MAJESTY.
I'LL PUT MY TRUST IN YOU.
I AGREE TO EXCHANGE INFORMA-TION.
BUT WHY?
I DO NOT ACTUALLY BELIEVE WHAT I HAVE SAID WOULD BE ENOUGH TO CONVINCE YOU.
YOU BELIEVE THIS ASSASSINATION PLOT WILL END IN FAILURE...
...SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO PLAY IT SAFE.
IF YOU WERE INVOLVED IN THE PLOT, YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO HEDGE LIKE THIS.
BUT YOUR PREDICTIONS HAVE MISSED THE MARK.
SERIE...
I ASK YOU ONCE AGAIN.
WHAT AWAITS US IN THE FUTURE?
NO IDEA.
I'LL BE DEAD.
IN THE END, I COULDN'T WORK OUT...
...WHO KILLS ME OR HOW...
...OR WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY DEATH.
BUT IT WAS A STROKE OF LUCK TO GET AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU...
...YOUR MAJESTY.
IN THE REAL WORLD...
...THERE IS RARELY A CHANCE TO SPEAK FREELY AND WITHOUT INTERFER-ENCE.
NOW I CAN MAKE PLANS FOR WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER MY DEATH.
WHAT-EVER I CHOSE TO DO, MY FOOLISH APPREN-TICES...
...WOULD REJECT ANY PLANS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT I DIED.
BUT FINALLY I CAN HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATION.
AND IT'S NOT A BAD DEAL FOR YOU EITHER, YOUR MAJESTY.
LET BOTH THE EMPIRE AND THE CONTINENTAL MAGIC ASSOCIATION ...
...PURSUE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS.
To be continued!

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